

A SIMPLIFIED BASIC ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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ENGLISH TENSES

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ENGLISH TENSES AND THEIRS ASPECTS

A Simplified Basic English Grammar is a series account of basic elements of English Grammar and the way they are used in English. This pamphlet pays most attention on points that are importance to students of English language. Most of the contents were designed in simple language with examples for better understanding.

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*Any errors, misspelling or wrong grammatical construction/arrangements found within this pamphlet, please feel free to contact the writer for immediate revamping at: **theladyarchive.blogspot.com**.*

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1. TENSES

The word **tense** was derived from an Old French word **tens** which means **time**. Tense is the property of a verb that indicates the time in which the action described by the verb takes place. Tense refers to the time an action took place or the time of state or condition. **Tense** is used to relate an event or happening expressed by the verb to a time scale in the present or past or even an action that is not yet (future). According to Eka (1996) tense refers to changes in the form of the verb to correspond with our own concept of time.

2. TYPES OF ENGLISH TENSES

Tense is a universal nonlinguistic concept with three divisions: *present*, *past* and *future*. Whatever the language you speak, you must relate an event to the time of occurrence to be understood (i.e. *happened*, *happening* or *will happen*).

The three basic forms of the English verbs are; the present, past and future:

- a. **Present:** is a tense most commonly used to indicate an action occurring in the present, or suggests actions or situations at the time of speaking, or state of being; e.g. *I am reading*.
- b. **Past:** is a tense expresses an action/actions that occurred sometime in the past; e.g. *I washed my clothes*.
- c. **Future:** this tense is used to indicate action that will occur in the future, this tense describes events that are not yet happened or are going to happen in a future time; e.g. *I will marry you*

3. ASPECTS OF ENGLISH TENSES

Aspect is a grammatical category that expresses how an action, event, or state, denoted by a verb, extends over time. It is a grammatical category of verbs that consider qualities of action (structure [*how to make*] or use [*when and why to use*]). Aspect refers to the way the action of the verb is perceived; whether it is in progress or is completed at the moment of

speaking. It is used to distinguish states and one action with another, for example, simple from Continuous, and perfect from perfect Continuous.

Tense and aspect are therefore related and the expression of time, present or past, cannot be considered separately from aspect. The expression of future time is also connected to tense and aspect.

Basically in English language, there are four grammatical aspects used to differentiate different uses of tense. These aspects are:

1. Simple
2. Continuous/progressive
3. Perfect
4. Perfect Continuous/progressive

a. **Simple:** is a grammatical aspect a verb that denote a single action (perfective aspect), a habitual repeated action “*I loves reading books*” or relatively permanent state “*She died*” or a stative verbs “*He is a student*”.

In English, there are only two simple tenses that can be constructed without use of any auxiliary or modal verbs in its affirmative form, **the simple present**, as in “*I walk*,” and **the simple past**, as in “*I walked*.” Use of helping verbs within these tenses are used for showing emphasis (emphatic statements), e.g. “*I (do) walk*”, or “*I (did) walk*”. While **the simple future** usually goes with modal auxiliaries (will, shall, can etc.) as in “*I will come to your office*”, “*We shall eat this food*”.

b. **Progressive (Continuous):** an aspect used to denote a temporary action or state that began at a short previous time and Continuous into the present time. The progressive aspect refers to activity or event in progress and therefore suggests that the activity is temporary or of limited duration but that it need not be complete; It expressed using a form of the auxiliary verb “*to be*” (**am, is** and **are** for present, **was** and **were** for past, and **modal(s) + be** for future) together with the **present participle (-ing form)**. **Examples:**

- *I am going to camp*
- *He was watching TV*
- *You will be working at home.*

c. **Perfect:** describes a verb or verb aspect for an action that is brought to a close, it also used to denote the circumstance of an action's being complete at a certain time, or not complete or temporarily. The perfect aspect can also be identified as a state leading up to the present time, or past event with results in the present time. It uses a form of the auxiliary verb "**have**" together with the **past participle** of the main verb; **examples:**

- *I have swum in pool*
- *They had slept in my room*
- *It will have killed them.*

d. **Perfect Progressive/Continuous:** usually it refers to a completed portion of a continuing action or temporary. It has a similar meaning to the present perfect aspect except that the period leading up to the present is of limited duration and does not continue up till the present. It is formed with verb "**have**" (denoting the perfect) together with "**been**" (the past participle of **be**, denoting the progressive) and present participle of the main verb; **examples:**

- *I have been reading for two hours*
- *They had been playing with toys*
- *You will have been travelling for two weeks.*

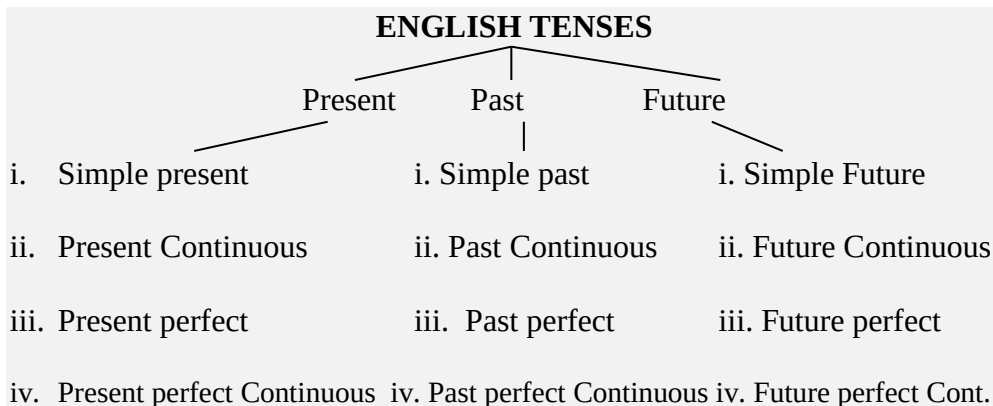
4. MOOD

Mood is Latin word which means *manners*. When it applied to verbs **refers to the manners in which verb expresses the action or state of being**. There are three moods in English; *the indicative mood*; *the imperative mood* and *the subjunctive mood*. The *indicative mood* is used to make statements and to ask questions. Most of the verbs that you use everyday are in the indicative mood; to make **statements (declarative or negative)** and **to ask questions (interrogative)**.

Statement is a way or mood of expression either as **affirmative/declarative** or **negative** form for stating fact, experience, feeling and ideas.

- a. **Declarative Statement (+):** asserts or declares a fact or an opinion, it also called **Positive Statement**; e.g.
 - *He teaches them English Grammar*
 - *She wrote a letter*
 - *I will buy a new car*
- b. **Negative Statement (-):** is a statement that expresses denying, disproving or nullifying something, usually takes place with the addition of particle **“not”** to an auxiliary or copular verb; examples:
 - *I do not love him*
 - *He did not go to school*
 - *She will not attend the party*
- c. **Interrogative (?):** is a statement uses to ask questions with a **question mark (?)** at the end of statement; examples:
 - *do you like this book*
 - *was it right?*
 - *will you arrive on time?*

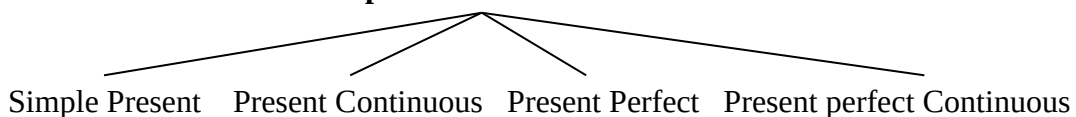
6. ENGLISH TENSES AND THEIR ASPECTS



i. PRESENT TENSE

The **present tense** is used to indicate an action occurring in the present time of speaking.

Aspects of the Present Tense



1. SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Simple present refers to an action or event that takes place habitually (an action continuing for a period), stative (a state), repeated action, an instant action or verbs of reporting (quoting someone/thing).

Form of the Simple Present Tense

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb
 noun/pronoun do base

Three important exceptions about Simple Present

1. For positive sentences, we do not normally use the auxiliary
2. For 3rd person singular (e.g. **he, she** or **it**, or single noun [e.g. **Hafsat, a lecturer** etc.] ‘s’ should be added to the main verb e.g. “**goes**”, “**loves**” or ‘**es**’ to the auxiliary “**does**”.
3. For the verb ‘**to be**’ (stative verb), we do not use an auxiliary even for question and negatives “**he is my friend**”

Examples:

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)		
Subject	main verb	
i, you, we, they	read	a book
he, she, it	visit	a garden

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)				
subject	auxiliary	negation particle	main verb	
I, you, we, they	do	not	Like	PC
he, she, it	does	not	Eat	meat

INTERROGATIVE (?)

<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
do	I, you, we, they	know	the man?
does	he, she, it	go	to the river?

▪ Examples of **STATIVE VERB**

POSITIVE STATEMENT

<i>subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I	am	Nigerian
you, we, they	Are	Nigerian
he, she, it	is	Nigerian

NEGATIVE STATEMENT

<i>Subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>		
I	am	not	Nigerian
you, we, they	are	not	Nigerian
he, she, it	is	not	Nigerian

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT

<i>main verb</i>	<i>Subject</i>	
am	I	Nigerian?
are	you, we, they	Nigerian?
is	he, she, it	Nigerian?

▪ **Verbs of reporting**

- The lecturer says: “he is coming”
- He says “he is ready”
- Terrorists say “no more attack”
- She says “she loves him”

▪ **An instant action**

- He passes the ball to short
- The team plays really well

ii. PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSES

The **present Continuous tense** refers to an action or event conceived of as having limited duration, taking place at the present time (ie. happening now) or in future.

▪ Form of the Present Continuous Tense

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb

noun/pro be base + ing (present participle)

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
I	am	reading	books
you, we, they	are	writing	a note
he, she, it	is	eating	a food

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
I	am	not playing	game
you, we, they	are	not riding	bike(s)
he, she, it	is	not staying	in home

INTERROGATIVE (?)

auxiliary	Subject	main verb	
am	I	reading	books?
are	you, we, they	writing	a note?
is	he, she, it	eating	a food?

▪ How do we spell the Present Continuous Tense?

Present continuous tense forms by adding **-ing** to the base of verb's words as below:

BASIC

learn	>	learning	be	>	being	eat	>	eating
keep	>	keeping	watch	>	Watching	do	>	doing

Exception 1: If the base ends with **consonant + vowel + consonant**, **double** the last letter:

run	>	running		win	>	winning		cut	>	cutting
-----	---	---------	--	-----	---	---------	--	-----	---	---------

Exception 2: If the base verb ends with **'ie'**, change the **'ie'** to **'y'**:

lie	>	lying		die	>	dying		tie	>	tying
-----	---	-------	--	-----	---	-------	--	-----	---	-------

Exception 3: If the base verb ends with **vowel + consonant + e**, omit **'e'**:

come	>	coming		tape	>	taping		bare	>	baring
------	---	--------	--	------	---	--------	--	------	---	--------

▪ Contractions with the Present Continuous Tense

When we use the present Continuous tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

I am	'am	we are	we're	it is	it's
he/she is	he's / she's	you are	you're	they are	they're

▪ Examples of Present Continuous with Proper Nouns:

- POSITIVE (+)
- A'isha (**she**) **is** laughing at me
 - Maryam and Safiya (**they**) **are** going to the school
 - I and Khadija (**we**) **are** eating fruits
 - My horse (**it**) **is** drinking water
-
- NEGATIVE (-)
- Balaraba **is** not writing her note
 - Fatima **is** not washing her mom's clothes
 - Hafsat and Sulaiman (they) **are** not cutting the grasses
-
- INTER. (?)
- **is** Ahmad reading the letter?
 - **are** you (Abubakar) sketching the map?
 - **am** I (Aliyu) teaching you English?
 - **is** your dog barking?

▪ Present continuous tense for the future

Present continuous tense is also talking about the future if **future word** adds to the statement such as: **tomorrow, next week, after Eid, in Ramadan, tonight** etc., The present progressive is used for future happening resulting from a present plan, arrangement or programme: examples:

- *I am travelling by air tomorrow*
- *She is cooking food tonight*
- * *We are taking exam next week*

iii. PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

It is a form of verb that suggests that an action that has been completed, formed in English by preceding the verb with "**have**" (or "**has**" for third person singular) and usually ending the verb with "-ed," (past participle) e.g. "**have departed**". The present perfect combines *present tense* with *perfect aspect*, denoting the present state of an action's being completed, that is, that the action took place before the present time.

■ Form of the the Present Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense forms with present tense of auxiliary **have** (namely **have** and **has**) and the **past participle** of the **main verb**:

subject	+	auxiliary verb	+	main verb
noun/pro		have / has		past participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
i, you, we, they	have	read	for exam
he, she, it	has	eaten	the food

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
i, you, we, they	have	not played	the game
he, she, it	has	not been	in the class

INTERROGATIVE (?)

auxiliary	Subject	main verb	
have	I, you, we, they	finished	the note?
has	he, she, it	gone	To the farm?

■ Contractions with the Present Perfect Tense

When we use the present perfect tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

I have	I've
he/she has	he's/she's

we have	we've
you have	you've

it has	it's
they have	they've

■ **Present perfect tense for experience**

Use to know whether action did/does or not, as for examples:

- *I have got marriage*
- *He has not arrested by police*
- *Has the price gone up?*

■ **Present perfect tense for change**

Use to talk about change or new information, as for examples:

- *I have lived in Hadejia before I resided U.E.A.*
- *She has studied at BASUG*
- *We have never visited him*

■ **Present perfect tense for continuing situation:**

Used to talk about action started in the past and continuous in the present:

- *We have waited since morning*
- *Hafsat has been ill for 2 weeks*
- *How long have you known Me?*

■ **'For' and 'since' with Present Perfect Tense**

FOR	SINCE
30 minutes	7:30am
7 days	Monday

FOR	SINCE
5 months	January
2 years	2015

FOR	SINCE
years	last years
a weeks	last week

Examples

- *I have been here for 30 minute*
- *They have been here since 30 past 7*
- *She has been ill for 2 years*
- *He has been ill since 2015*

- **The present perfect tells us about the past and about the present.** We use it for an action in the period leading up to the present.

- ***The shop has just opened. The visitors have arrived.***
- ***The post hasn't come yet. Have you ever ridden a horse?***

iv. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The present perfect continuous combines perfect aspect with present tense, that is, it expresses an action continuing up to now or action that has just stopped or recently stopped.

■ Form of the Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Present perfect continuous tense is formed with the present of **have** (or **has** for 3rd person singular) and the **past participle** of **be** (**been**) and **the present participle** of the **main verb** (**-ing** form):

subject + auxiliary verb + auxiliary verb + main verb

noun/pro have/has been present participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

subject	perfective	progressive	main verb	
I, you, we, they	have	been	writing	since morning
he, she, it	has	been	eating	too much

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

subject	perfective	progressive	main verb	
I, you, we, they	have	been	not studying	here
he, she	has	been	not writing	an exam
It	has	been	not raining	till now

INTERROGATIVE (?)

auxiliary	Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
have	you, they	been	seeing	my books?
have	I	been	playing	the game?
has	he, she, it	been	sitting	In the garden?

■ Contractions with the Present-PCT

When we use the present perfect Continuous tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

I have been	I've been	we have been	we've been
-------------	-----------	--------------	------------

he has been	he's been
it has been	it's been

you have been	you've been
they have been	they've been

▪ **Present perfect continuous for an action that has recently stopped**

Use to know whether action started in the past and stopped recently.

Examples:

- *She is smiled, because she have been wedding*
- *You don't understand, because you haven't been listening*
- *Why is it wet, has it been raining?*
- *I am tired, because I have been working*

▪ **Present perfect continuous for an action continuing up to now**

Use to talk about an action that started in the past and is continuing now by using with 'for' or 'since', e.g.:

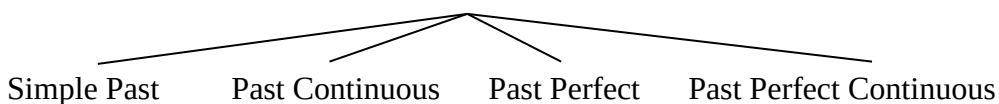
- *I have been typing since 30 minutes*
- *He has been watching sport since morning*
- *She hasn't been calling me since last week*
- *They haven't been reading their books, since*
- *How long have you been learning Grammar?*
- *Since when it has been leaking?*

c. PAST TENSE

Past tense is a verb tense expresses past events, it is a verb tense expresses something that happened or was done in the past.

In the sentence "***I felt very proud of them,***" the verb "*felt*" is in the past tense.

ASPECTS OF THE PAST TENSE



i. SIMPLE PAST TENSE

Simple past tense is an aspect of past tense that expresses past actions, stative verbs or sequence of past events, it also called ***Preterit Tense***.

The **simple past** or **past simple**, sometimes also called the **preterite**, consists of the bare past tense of the verb (ending in **-ed** for regular verbs, and formed in various ways for irregular ones).

Present	Present participle	Past	Past participle
accept	accepting	accepted	accepted
arrive	arriving	arrived	arrived
ask	asking	asked	asked
beat	beating	beat	beat
birth	birthing	birthed	birthed
build	building	built	built
buy	buying	bought	bought
call	calling	called	called
close	closing	closed	closed
cook	cooking	cooked	cooked
cry	crying	carried	carried
cut	cutting	cut	cut
draw	drawing	drew	drawn
drink	drinking	drank	drunk
drive	driving	drove	driven
eat	eating	ate	eaten
enter	entering	entered	entered
exit	exiting	exited	exited
fall	falling	fell	fallen
feel	feeling	felt	felt
finish	finishing	finished	finished
forget	forgetting	forgot	forgotten
give	giving	gave	given
hear	hearing	heard	heard
jump	jumping	jumped	jumped
keep	keeping	kept	kept
laugh	laughing	laughed	laughed
learn	learning	learned	learnt
listen	listening	listened	listened
look	looking	looked	looked
love	loving	loved	loved

make	making	made	made
marry	marrying	married	married
open	opening	opened	opened
play	playing	played	played
read	reading	read	read
return	returning	returned	returned
say	saying	said	said
see	seeing	saw	seen
sell	selling	sold	sold
send	sending	sent	sent
sit	sitting	sat	sat
sleep	sleeping	slept	slept
smile	smiling	smiled	smiled
speak	speaking	spoke	spoken
spend	spending	spent	spent
stand	standing	stood	stood
surprise	surprising	surprised	surprised
sweep	sweeping	swept	swept
take	taking	took	taken
teach	teaching	taught	taught
throw	throwing	threw	thrown
touch	touching	touched	touched
visit	visiting	visited	visited
wait	waiting	waited	waited
wake	waking	woke	waken
walk	walking	walked	walked
watch	watching	watched	watched
wear	wearing	wore	worn
win	winning	won	won
write	writing	wrote	written

Form of the Simple Past Tense

subject	+	auxiliary verb	+	main verb
<i>noun/pro</i>		<i>did</i>		<i>base (or Subject + past form of verb)</i>

Examples:

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, you, we, they he, she, it	ate	the guava
	graduate	Darul Uloom Institute
	passed	the test

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)				
<i>subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>negation particle</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, you, we, they	did	not	clean	the class
he, she, it	did	not	prepare	well

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT (?)			
<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
did	I, you, we, they	watch	the news?
	he, she, it	go	to the river?

▪ Examples of **STATIC VERB**

Exception! The verb **to be** is different. We conjugate the verb to be (***I was, you were, he/she/it was, we were, they were***); and we do not use an auxiliary for negative and question sentences. To make a question, we exchange the subject and verb. Look at these examples:

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, he, she, it	was	here
you, we, they	were	in the campus

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>		
I, he, she, it	was	not	happy
you, we, they	were	not	here

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT (?)

<i>main verb</i>	<i>Subject</i>	
was	I, he, she, it	right?
were	you, we, they	late?

The past tense is often used when describing a sequence of past events, for example:

- *I was born on 15th June, 2000.*
- *We turned the oven off two minutes ago.*
- *She placed the letter on the table, sighed, and left the house.*

▪ **Examples of quoting someone or something:**

- *She said he was sick*
- *They said we were not latecomers*
- *I told her I am sorry for my madness*

• **Examples of long events with the simple past tense:**

- *I studied in B.U.K. for 4 years*
- *We did not attend the party about 5 years*
- *Did you receive the call last night?*

Concisely we use the simple past tense when:

- the event is in the past
- the event is completely finished
- we say (or understand) the time and/or place of the event

ii. PAST CONTINUOUS TENSES

The ***past continuous*** is also called ***past progressive*** or construction combines **progressive aspect (be)** with past tense, and is formed using the past tense of **be (was or were)** with the present participle of the main verb. It indicates an action that was ongoing at the past time being considered. The past continuous tense expresses action at a particular moment in the past.

The action started before that moment but has not finished at that moment.

For example, yesterday ***I read books in my room.*** The reading started by **6am** morning and finished **8am**. At 7am, I was in the middle of reading books.

▪ **Form of the Past Continuous Tense**

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb

noun/pro was/were base + ing (present participle)

Note that, the auxiliary “**was**” is used by ***I, he, she*** and ***it***; while “**were**” is used by ***you, we*** and ***they***.

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)			
<i>Subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, he, she, it	Was	Eating	a food
you, we, they	were	working	hard

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)				
<i>Subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main verb</i>		
I	Was	Not	playing	the game
you, we, they	were	Not	riding	bike(s)
he, she, it	Was	Not	staying	in home

INTERROGATIVE (?)			
<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
was	he, she, it	reading	books?
were	you, we, they	writing	a note?

- The past progressive can also be used to refer to past action that occurred over a range of time and is viewed as an ongoing situation; when we use the past continuous tense, our listener usually knows or understands what time we are talking about, for examples:
 - *I was working in the garden all day yesterday.*
 - *We were reading in the library last night*
 - *It wasn't barking when I entered the house.*
 - *What were you doing when he arrived?*

We often use the past continuous tense to "**set the scene**" in stories. We use it to describe the background situation at the moment when the action begins. Often, the story starts with the past continuous tense and then moves into the simple past tense. Here is an example:

"James Bond was driving through town. It was raining. The wind was blowing hard. Nobody was walking in the streets. Suddenly, Bond saw the killer in a telephone box..."

▪ **Past Continuous Tense + Simple Past Tense**

We often use the past continuous tense with the simple past tense. We use the past continuous tense to express a long action. And we use the simple past tense to express a short action that happens in the middle of the long action. We can join the two ideas with **when** or **while**.

In the following example, we have two actions:

1. long action (watching TV), expressed with past continuous tense
2. short action (telephoned), expressed with simple past tense

I was watching TV (at 8pm) when you phone me (at 8pm)

We use:

- when + short action (simple past tense)
- while + long action (past continuous tense)

	<i>I was walking past the car</i>	when	<i>it exploded</i>
when	<i>the car exploded</i>		<i>I was walking past</i>
	<i>the car exploded</i>	while	<i>I was walking past it</i>
while	<i>I was walking past the car</i>		<i>it exploded</i>

iii. PAST PERFECT TENSE

Past perfect tense is a verb tense formed with "**had**" that expresses an action completed at a more distant time in the past, that is, a time previous to the past time specified or implied elsewhere in the passage. The past perfect, sometimes called the **pluperfect**, combines past tense with *perfect aspect*; it is formed by combining **had** (the past tense of the auxiliary **have**) with the past participle of the main verb. It is used when referring to an event that

took place prior to the time frame being considered. This time frame may be stated explicitly, as a stated time or the time of another past action. In the sentence "***She had thought seriously about the implications of what she was doing,***" the verb "**think**" is in the past perfect tense.

▪ Form of the Past Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense forms with present tense of auxiliary **have** (namely **have** and **has**) and the **past participle** of the **main verb**:

subject + **auxiliary verb** + **main verb**
noun/pro had past participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT

Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
I, you, we, they	had	written	the letter
he, she, it	had	drunk	the juice

NEGATIVE STATEMENT

Subject	auxiliary	main verb		
I, you, we, they	had	not	attended	the lecture
he, she, it	had	not	contributed	in the class

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT

Auxiliary	Subject	main verb	
had	I, you, we, they	finished	the note?
had	he, she, it	gone	To the farm?

▪ Contractions with the Past Perfect Tense

When we use the past perfect tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

I had	I'd
he/she had	he'd/she'd

we had	We'd
you had	you'd

it had	it'd
they had	they'd

- The past perfect tense expresses action in the past before another action in the past. This is the past in the past. For example:
 - *I wasn't Hungary. I had just eaten*
 - *I didn't know who he was. I had never seen him before*
 - *They hungry. They had not eaten for five hours.*
- We often use the past perfect tense in reported speech after verbs like *said, told, asked, thought, wondered*: Look at these examples:
 - *He told us that the train had left.*
 - *I thought I had met her before, but I was wrong.*
 - *He explained that he had closed the window because of the rain.*
 - *I wondered if I had been there before.*
 - *I asked them why they had not finished.*

The past perfect can also be used for states or repeated occurrences pertaining over a period up to a time in the past, particularly in stating "**for how long**" or "**since when**". However, if the state is temporary and the verb can be used in the progressive aspect, the past perfect progressive would normally be used instead. Some examples with the plain past perfect:

- *I had lived in that house for 10 years.*
- *The children had been in their room since lunchtime.*

iv. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The past perfect progressive or past perfect continuous (also known as the pluperfect progressive or pluperfect continuous) combines perfect progressive aspect with past tense. It is formed by combining **had** (the past tense of auxiliary have), **been** (the past participle of **be**), and the present participle of the main verb. Past perfect Continuous uses of the past perfect progressive are analogous to those of the present perfect progressive, except that the point of reference is in the past. For example:

- I was tired because **I had been running.**

Form of the Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Present perfect continuous tense forms with the past of **have (had)** and the **past participle** of **be (been)** and **the present participle** of the **main verb** (–ing form):

subject + **auxiliary verb** + **auxiliary verb** + **main verb**
noun/pro had been present participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

Subject	perfective	progressive	main verb	
I, you, we, they	had	been	playing	tennis
he, she, it	had	been	working	well

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

Subject	perfective	progressive	main verb	
I, you, we, they	had	been	not	studying here
he, she, it	had	been	not	expecting her
	had	been	not	raining till now

INTERROGATIVE (?)

auxiliary	Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
had	you, they	been	jogging?	
had	I	been	playing	the game?
had	he, she, it	been	waiting	long?

Contractions with the Past Perfect Continuous Tense

When we use the present perfect Continuous tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

I had been	I'd been	We had been	we'd been	it had been	it'd been
he'd been	he'd been	you had been	you'd been	they had been	they'd been

The past perfect continuous tense is like the past perfect tense, but it expresses longer actions in the past before another action in the past.

For example:

- John was very tired. He had been running.
- I could smell cigarettes. Somebody had been smoking.
- Suddenly, my car broke down. I was not surprised. It had not been running well for a long time.
- Had the pilot been drinking before the crash?

You can sometimes think of the past perfect continuous tense like the present perfect continuous tense, but instead of the time being now the time is past.

past perfect continuous

had |
been |
doing |
>>>> |

past

now

future

present perfect continuous

have |
been |
doing |
>>>> |

past

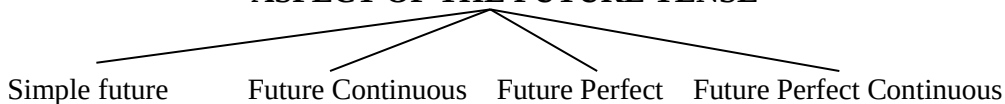
now

future

c. FUTURE TENSE

Future tense is a form verb used to indicate action that will occur in the future, this tense describes events that are not yet happened or are going to be happened in a future time;

ASPECT OF THE FUTURE TENSE



i. SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

The term **simple future**, **future simple** or **future indefinite** generally refers to the combination of the modal auxiliary verb **will** with the bare infinitive of the main verb. The simple future tense is often called **will**, because we make the simple future tense with the modal auxiliary **will**. Sometimes **shall** is preferred to **will** when the subject is first person (**I** or **we**). This

construction can be used to indicate what the speaker views as facts about the future, including confident predictions:

- *The sun will rise tomorrow at 6:14.*
- *It will rain later this week.*

■ Form of the Simple Future Tense

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb
noun/pro will base

Examples:

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)			
Subject	auxiliary	main verb	
I, we	will/shall	go	to school
he, she, it, you, they	will	buy	a car

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)				
Subject	auxiliary	negation particle	main verb	
I, you, we, they	will	not	drink	this water
he, she, it	will	not	visit	the man

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT (?)			
auxiliary	subject	main verb	
Will	I, you, we, they	read	the notice?
Will	he, she, it	watch	the match?

■ Contractions with the Simple Future Tense

When we use the Simple Future Tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

<i>I will</i>	<i>I'll</i>	<i>we will</i>	<i>we'll</i>	<i>it will</i>	<i>it'll</i>
<i>he/she will</i>	<i>he'll / she'll</i>	<i>you will</i>	<i>you'll</i>	<i>they will</i>	<i>they'll</i>

For negative sentences in the simple future tense, we contract with won't, like this: **will not = won't**;

e.g. *I will not = I won't*; *they will not = they won't*; *he will not = he won't*

- We use the simple future tense when there is **no plan** or **decision** to do something before we speak. We make the decision spontaneously at the time of speaking. Look at these examples:

- *Hold on. I'll get a pen.*
- *We will see what we can do to help you.*
- *Maybe we'll stay in and watch television tonight*

In these examples, we had no firm plan before speaking. The decision is made at the time of speaking.

- We often use the simple future tense with the verb to think before it:

- *I think I'll go to the gym tomorrow.*
- *I think I will have a holiday next year.*
- *I don't think I'll buy that car.*

- **Prediction**

We often use the simple future tense to make a prediction about the future. Again, there is no firm plan. We are saying what we think will happen. Here are some examples:

- *It will rain tomorrow.*
- *People won't go to Jupiter before the 22nd century.*
- *Who do you think will get the job?*

- **Be**

When the main verb is be, we can use the simple future tense even if we have a firm plan or decision before speaking. Examples:

- *I'll be in London tomorrow.*
- *I'm going shopping. I won't be very long.*
- *Will you be at work tomorrow?*

Note that when we have a plan or intention to do something in the future, we usually use other tenses or expressions, such as the *present continuous tense* or *going to*. Examples:

- *I am taking my exam next week*
- *We are partying in BASUG tonight*
- *It is not doing it well*
- *When are you starting your new job?, etc.*

ii. FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSES

The **future progressive** or **future continuous** combines *progressive aspect* with *future time reference*; it is formed with the auxiliary **will** (or **shall** in the first person), the bare infinitive **be**, and the present participle of the main verb.

Form of the Future Continuous Tense

subject + **auxiliary verb** + **auxiliary verb** + **main verb**
 noun/pro will be base + ing (present participle)

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

Subject	auxiliary	auxiliary	main verb	
I, he, she, it	will	Be	reading	this morning
you, we, they	will	Be	playing	the match at 3pm

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

Subject	auxiliary	not	Auxiliary	
I, he, she, it	will	not	Be	riding a bike
you, we, they	will	not	Be	having a lecture today

INTERROGATIVE (?)

auxiliary	subject	auxiliary	main verb	
will	I, he, she, it	be	reading	this morning?
will	you, we, they	be	playing	the match at 3pm?

Contractions with the Future Continuous Tense

When we use the Future Continuous Tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as:

<i>I will be</i>	<i>I'll be</i>	<i>we will be</i>	<i>we'll be</i>	<i>it will be</i>	<i>it'll be</i>
<i>he/she will</i>	<i>he'll / she'll</i>	<i>you will be</i>	<i>you'll be</i>	<i>they will</i>	<i>they'll be</i>

For negative sentences in the simple future tense, we contract with **won't**, like this: **will not be = won't be**; **I will not = I won't be**; **they will not = they won't be**; etc.

Examples:

- This time tomorrow ***I'll be*** taking my driving test.
- I imagine ***we'll*** already be eating when you arrive.
- The future continuous tense expresses action at a particular moment in the future. The action will start before that moment but it will not have finished at that moment. For example, ***tomorrow I will start work at 2pm and stop work at 6pm:***
 - At 4pm tomorrow, I will be working
 - I will be playing tennis at 10am tomorrow.
 - They won't be watching TV at 9pm tonight.
 - What will you be doing at 10pm tonight?
 - What will you be doing when I arrive?
 - She will not be sleeping when you telephone her.
 - We 'll be having dinner when the film starts.
 - Take your umbrella. It will be raining when you return.
- The same construction may occur when will or shall is given one of its other uses. For example:
 - He will be sitting in his study at this time. (confident speculation about the present)
 - They will be playing their match right now.
 - I shall be paying her transit as soon as he arrived.

iii. FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

The future perfect combines *perfect aspect* with *future time reference*. It consists of the auxiliary ***will*** (or sometimes ***shall*** in the first person), the bare infinitive ***have***, and the ***past participle*** of the *main verb*. It indicates an action that is to be completed sometime prior to a future time of perspective, or an ongoing action continuing up to a future time of perspective:

- I shall have finished my essay by Thursday.
- When I finally search him he will have disposed of the evidence.
- By next year we will have lived in this house for half a century.

Form of the Future Perfect Tense

subject + **auxiliary verb** + **auxiliary verb** + **main verb**
 noun/pro will have past participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)				
Subject	auxiliary	auxiliary	main verb	
I, he, she, it	will	have	finished	by next 3 days
you, we, they	will	have	forgotten	me by then

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)					
Subject	auxiliary	Auxiliary			
I, he, she, it	will	not	have	gone	to school
you, we, they	will	not	have	left	

INTERROGATIVE (?)				
auxiliary	subject	auxiliary	main verb	
will	I, he, she, it	have	arrived?	
will	you, we, they	have	received	their call?

Contractions with the Future Perfect Tense

When we use the Future Continuous Tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as: *I will have = I'll have*;

you will have = you'll have; he will have = he'll have, etc.

- The future perfect tense expresses action in the future before another action in the future. This is the past in the future. For example:
 - You can call me at work at 8am. I will have arrived at the office by 8.
 - They will be tired when they arrive. They will not have slept for a long time.
 - "Mary won't be at home when you arrive." "Really? Where will she have gone?"

You can sometimes think of the future perfect tense like the present perfect tense, but instead of your viewpoint being in the present, it is in the future:

<i>present perfect tense</i>			<i>future perfect tense</i>		
	have			will	
	done			have	
	>			done	
past	now	future	past	now	future

iv. FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The *future perfect progressive* or *future perfect continuous* combines perfect progressive aspect with future time reference. It is formed by combining the auxiliary *will* (or sometimes *shall*, as above), the bare infinitive *have*, the past participle *been*, and the present participle of the main verb. Uses of the future perfect progressive are analogous to those of the present perfect progressive, except that the point of reference is in the future. For example:

- *He will be very tired because he will have been working all morning.*
- *By 6 o'clock we will have been drinking for ten hours.*

How do we make the future Perfect Continuous TENSE?

subject + auxiliary verb + auxiliary verb + auxiliary verb + main verb
 noun/pro will have been present participle

POSITIVE STATEMENT (+)

<i>Subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, he, she, it	will	have	been	working	for 5 hours
you, we, they	will	have	been	travelling	for two days

NEGATIVE STATEMENT (-)

<i>Subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
I, he, she, it	will not	have	been	using	the pen
you, we, they	will not	have	been	waiting	long

INTERROGATIVE STATEMENT (?)

<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>subject</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>auxiliary</i>	<i>main verb</i>	
will	i, he, she, it	have	been	playing	football?
will	you, we, they	have	been	watching	TV?

▪ Contractions with the Future Perfect Tense

When we use the Future Continuous Tense, we can contract the subject and auxiliary verb in speaking or in writing as: *I will have been* = *I'll have been*; *you will have been* = *you'll have been*; *he will have* = *he'll have been*, etc. For negative sentence in the future perfect continuous tense; contract with **won't**, it will be like this: *I will not have been* = *I won't have been*

We use the future perfect continuous tense to talk about a long action before some point in the future. Examples:

- *I will have been working here for ten years next week.*
- *He will be tired when he arrives. He will have been traveling for 24 hours.*

AUXILIARIES TABLE	
do-support	<i>do, does, did,</i>
progressive	<i>am, is, are, was, were, be, been</i>
perfective	<i>have, has, had</i>
modals	<i>will, would, shall, should, can, could, may, might, must</i>

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